



## Sam's Club approved by Glen Carbon board



Photo courtesy of Administrative Assistant to the Village of Glen Carbon Melissa Millard

The Sam's Club was recently approved by a five to one vote earlier this month after being rejected by a four to three vote in April. The development will cost \$5.95 million.

**LEXI CORTES**  
 Alestle Reporter

After four no votes and two months of negotiation, the new Sam's Club has been approved to start building in Glen Carbon Labor Day 2012.

When Sam's Club came to the board in February 2010, Glen Carbon Mayor Robert Jackstadt said they had a difficult time reaching a consensus.

"Anytime the city decides to give incentives to any entity, it's a tough decision," Jackstadt said. "Our Village Board and I share a philosophy that incentives should be rarely granted and there should be an extraordinary or unusual reason to give any

business that wants to come to your town some sort of incentive."

The developers originally asked for \$7.5 million in incentives, which means Sam's Club would be reimbursed up to that amount for the money they spent investing in the property. The board, including Jackstadt, felt this amount was too much. When they voted in April, the decision was 4-3 against the project.

"It was a close vote," Jackstadt said. "I think I had voted one other time in six years to break a tie, that's how rare it is. I voted what I thought was best for Glen Carbon taxpayers."

After the voting in April,

Jackstadt said there was some concern that Sam's would try to develop in neighboring towns and Glen Carbon would not receive the tax benefits and increased revenue. The developers negotiated with the board and lowered the incentives to \$5.95 million and the re-vote in June was 5-1 in favor of the project.

Jackstadt said he and the board agreed the location of Four Flags Motors, the abandoned Goshen Do-It Center on Illinois 159, was appropriate for the new Sam's Club because it is in a business area as opposed to a residential area.

"On one hand, we didn't want to give away a lot of money, if any," Jackstadt said. "But then

we're faced with this property that hasn't developed during the biggest growth period this area has ever seen."

Jackstadt said there is little sales tax coming into Glen Carbon from the property now, but after the bonds are paid off, there will be a total of \$750,000 per year in new sales taxes.

Jackstadt said the arrival of a Sam's Club in Glen Carbon will service the community in a number of ways, besides just the tax benefits.

"When a Sam's comes, you reasonably expect that there will be new visitors to the area," Jackstadt said. "There will be new money spent, kept in our town. When that happens, there is the

possibility that it is going to jump start additional development."

Board member Mary Ann Smith said the increased traffic in the area would even help current businesses in town.

"People are going to come in and shop at Sam's and then maybe get something to eat and stop in [the other stores in town]," Smith said.

The notion of an increase in visitors to Glen Carbon brought concerns with many of the board members in regards to traffic congestion on Illinois Route 159. Jackstadt and the board hired an independent traffic engineer who suggested improving the traffic signalizations between Cotton

**SAM'S CLUB/pg.2**

## SIUE researchers create website to aid NASA

**JOHN LAYTON**  
 Alestle Reporter

A ring of ice in the solar system has drawn the attention of SIUE professors and graduates.

Research associate Pamela Gay and alumnus Cory Lehan, a 2010 computer science graduate, designed and programmed a website, Icehunters.org, which will help NASA's New Horizons spacecraft mission.

Visitors to the website analyze images of the ice ring, known as the Kuiper Belt, to mark potential objects the New Horizons spacecraft could visit after Pluto, its initial destination. These images come from many observatories around the world, including the Subaru telescope in Hawaii and the Magellan telescope in Chile.

Gay said the Kuiper Belt is in one of the least mapped areas of the solar system. It has been studied since the 1930s to exist.

In the 1960s, Gerard Kuiper started to get a better idea on what this region should look like. However, it was not until 1992 that anything other than Pluto was discovered in the Kuiper Belt. Despite the fact it has been theorized to contain 70,000 objects a kilometer or larger, only 1,000 objects have been found.

"We have comets. Comets need to come from somewhere and we look at their orbits. Many



Photo courtesy of NASA

**Icehunters.org was created to aid NASA in examining the Kuiper Belt. According to research associate Pamela Gay, the belt is one of the least mapped areas of our solar system.**

of them have orbits too small for them to come from the theorized Oort Cloud," Gay said. "People started guessing that maybe there's this inner ring of ice in our solar system."

Chances are most people have heard of a Kuiper Belt object or two without realizing it.

"Pluto's a Kuiper Belt object. Pluto's big sister, Eris, is another

Kuiper Belt object," Gay said. "We don't know what to call these things. That's being argued over. Currently, they're not called planets."

The Kuiper Belt starts around the orbit of Neptune. If you multiply the distance between Earth and the sun by 30, that distance is roughly where Kuiper Belt objects start showing

up. The belt extends to 55 times the distance between Earth and the sun, according to Gay.

Gay said regular people cannot see this region with normal telescopes at home. If they could, they would not see much. It is less dense than asteroid belts commonly seen in sci-fi movies.

"It's not exactly Han Solo's asteroid belt," Gay said, "But it is this region that basically has icebergs in space, hanging out, hopefully not waiting for a future Titanic to hit them."

It is hoped that the New Horizons spacecraft will be able to locate these Kuiper Belt objects.

Visitors to Icehunters.org have analyzed more than 3.6 million photos of the Kuiper Belt so far. In those images, visitors have identified more than 720,000 possible Kuiper Belt objects.

Among these, researchers hope to find some a spacecraft could be sent to.

"We can learn what stuff that becomes comets look like originally," Gay said. "What's really neat, is our own planet, after it formed, didn't have any water. So all of our oceans, all of the water we drink, all of the water that makes up us, had to come from somewhere. Where it probably came from is the outer solar system, in the form of comets."

## Blagojevich found guilty

**BOB SECTER/JEFF COEN**  
 Chicago Tribune

CHICAGO – A federal jury Monday convicted Rod Blagojevich of sweeping corruption, putting an end to a tragicomic legal and political drama that brought down Illinois' showy and would-be populist former governor.

The jury convicted Blagojevich after 10 days of deliberations of several shakedown attempts, including allegations that he tried to sell President Barack Obama's old U.S. Senate seat in 2008.

The verdict came less than a year after the first jury to hear the case found him guilty of only one criminal charge but deadlocked on the rest. The new jury found Blagojevich guilty on 11 criminal counts related to the Senate seat and six additional counts involving fundraising shakedowns of a hospital executive and racetrack owner.

The verdict could lead to a lengthy prison term for Blagojevich, normally a hard-to-silence talking machine who defied legal convention after his arrest and kept a high media profile. But Monday, as he left court with his wife, Patti, Blagojevich was virtually tongue-tied.

"I frankly am stunned," said Blagojevich, who was barred after the verdict from traveling outside



**SAM'S CLUB** from pg.1

wood Road and Harvard.

"Right now, [the traffic lights] don't talk to one another," Jackstadt said. "Traffic signals can't sense what's down at the other lights. They have the hardware, but it's never been hooked up."

It will cost between \$30,000 and \$50,000 to do this, but Sam's and the developer agreed to pay for it as part of their agreement in order to help the additional traffic, as well as the existing traffic. A turn-lane near Four Flags is also going to be extended and four entrances and exits will be put in the parking lot to further offset this problem.

"I looked at all of the traffic studies and it takes 32 seconds to go through that road," Hughes said. "It will be 35-45 seconds after Sam's Club opens. I think it's always going to be a little sluggish there, but I don't think people are even going to notice."

However, board member Ross Breckenridge, who was the only board member to vote against the project in June, said he does not think these simple adjustments will fix the problem.

"I believe to have a business of that caliber and size coming to Glen Carbon, there needs to be a good foundation," Breckenridge said. "With the sheer volume of traffic that we are going to experience, more is going to need to be done than just the synchronizing of the lights."

Breckenridge also said he had concerns about water drainage, which is a current issue in the area where Wal-Mart and Jack in the Box are located and may only be



Graphic by Michelle Beard/Alestle

**The Sam's Club will be located at the vacant Do-It-Yourself Center at the corner of Center Grove and Troy road.**

made worse with the addition of a new building.

"It's backing up in peoples' basements in the Bayhill subdivision region," Breckenridge said.

Jackstadt said the developers still have to submit a full development plan, but they know an underground water detention will be designed and put in place to store the water drainage.

"There is no question that the Village is going to make sure water drainage issues are dealt with before we approve the final development plans," Jackstadt said.

Another challenge in this project has been the contamination present on the property, which may cost \$1.5-\$2 million to clean up. Jackstadt said this problem is no secret to the Environmental Protection Agency, they have

known about it for years.

"[Railroad ties] used to be dipped in creosote, [a carcinogen], on that site many years ago," Jackstadt said.

Jackstadt said the contamination will not be an issue with the water drainage system set to be built. The developers are going to be utilizing a more modern method of dealing with contaminants. Rather than digging up all of the polluted soil and transporting it to some other location, they will be sealing the area off.

"Glen Carbon is hiring an EPA lawyer/engineer," Breckenridge said. "She will be on the site making sure the site is cleaned up to EPA standards."

One of the many selling points of the new Sam's Club was

that it would be much easier for them to handle the contamination on the property than if the board decided to sell the property in a piece-meal fashion. Hughes said this is because Sam's has the deep pockets necessary to deal with the problem.

"We would have to have 75 restaurants in that location just to match the revenue of Sam's," Breckenridge said.

Jackstadt said with the multiple restaurants on a 14 acre site, the traffic issues could have been much worse and multiple owners would have had a more difficult time deciding what to do about the contamination.

"The benefits outweigh any potential down-side," Jackstadt said.

The Sam's Club will not only bring tax benefits and new visitors to the area, but it will also provide job opportunities to the community, including SIUE students.

"Our area is becoming a college town... We are fortunate to have the students that live here because a lot of them do work," Jackstadt said. "I do think it is a potential benefit to SIUE to have another retailer nearby in the area for employment opportunities, for purchasing opportunities and for the potential new businesses it may even bring in."

Hughes said Sam's Club has not given an exact number of jobs that will be available once it opens, but he said he thinks it will be close to 100 opportunities for part-time and full time-work.

*Lexi Cortes can be reached at [acortes@alestlelive.com](mailto:acortes@alestlelive.com) or 650-3527. Follow Lexi @lexi\_cortes*

**NASA** from pg.1

Gay said being part of this project lets the world know great things come from small universities.

"This software was written entirely by myself, students and alumni of SIUE," Gay said. "It's not often that you get to say SIUE is mapping the solar system. This project lets us say that."

Lehan was hired as lead programmer for the website. Lehan said it is exciting to be a part of this project as an alumnus of SIUE.

"It's going really well," Lehan said. "Especially since it just got out of beta."

The beta phase of development is when the website was tested for any problems.

The website opened to the public on June 21.

Gay said new data will keep going into Icehunters through the end of September. More data will be added next year from June through September as well.

"It may be 2015 before the final objects are selected for New Horizons," Gay said.

Lehan said projects like this are great for giving students real world experience.

"It's good to have students taking part in big, real world applications rather than just the typical small senior project," Lehan said. "It's good to really be a part of something big for students."

*John Layton can be reached at [jlayton@alestlelive.com](mailto:jlayton@alestlelive.com) or 650-3527. Follow John @lmkammckl*

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northern Illinois without court permission. "There's not much left to say other than we want to get home to our little girls and talk to them and explain things to them and try to sort things out."

The outcome of the retrial provides vindication for U.S. Attorney Patrick Fitzgerald, who held a press conference after Blagojevich's arrest to say investigators stopped a "political corruption crime spree" and that "the misconduct would make Abraham Lincoln roll over in his grave."

"This is a bittersweet moment," said Fitzgerald, harkening back to the 2006 federal conviction of Blagojevich's predecessor, George Ryan. "Five years ago another jury sent another message that corruption in Illinois is not tolerable. Gov. Blagojevich did not get that message."

The implications of the verdict on Illinois' scandal-plagued political system are less clear. Blagojevich once fancied himself presidential material, but even before his December 2008 arrest, his popularity with voters had dropped to record low levels and he found himself a pariah in his own Democratic Party.

He was impeached and removed from office a couple of months after his arrest. Coupled with the lone guilty count from last summer's trial, Blagojevich has now been convicted of 18 counts of wire fraud, bribery, attempted extortion, conspiracy and lying to the FBI.

The new jury voted to find Blagojevich not guilty of one bribery count involving an alleged fundraising shakedown of a road-building executive. The panel also deadlocked on two other counts, one also involving the road builder and the other concerning an alleged 2006 fundraising shakedown of then-U.S. Rep. Rahm Emanuel, now Chicago's mayor.

In his first trial, Blagojevich declined to testify in his own defense but changed tactics for the retrial and took the stand for seven days. One juror said she found Blagojevich "personable" and said his likability complicated deliberations, but another said the panel found the testimony "manipulative" and that ultimately the testimony did not help him.

"I think our verdict shows we did not believe it," she said.

Blagojevich at first had little visible reaction in court as the first guilty count was read, but then he sat back in his chair with his lips pursed and glanced toward his wife after the first three counts were guilty. He eventually mouthed the words "I love you" toward his wife, who was in the first row crying and leaning on her brother.

The trial exhibited multiple Blagojevich personalities, the manic and almost desperate sounding schemer heard on wiretaps, the strident and outraged everyman fighting the system that came out in multiple media appearances following his arrest, and the humble, polite and modest

presence on the witness stand before jurors.

Likewise, there was an oddly schizophrenic nature to the Blagojevich defense, both the one he waged in court and the one he waged with vocal and strident indignation in the media. Almost in the same breath, the Blagojevich narrative portrayed him as a straightforward paragon of ethics and a wheeling-dealing practitioner of politics as usual in a system he frequently decried as corrupt.

In its second incarnation, the prosecution's case amounted to a significant re-engineering of the one presented by government lawyers last summer that largely ended in a hung jury. Jurors in that first case later complained that wide-ranging racketeering allegations had been too complicated. Prosecutors significantly streamlined the charges, dispensing with many of the claims that launched the criminal investigation into Blagojevich in the first place.

Gone was any significant reference to Operation Board Games, a federal criminal probe that earlier snagged top Blagojevich fundraiser Antoin "Tony" Rezko in a scheme to corrupt state regulatory panels. The new strategy eliminated embarrassing testimony that painted Blagojevich as fickle, shallow and disengaged from his official duties, including claims that he hid in the bathroom to avoid his budget czar and spent hundreds of

thousands of dollars on clothing despite complaints of personal money woes.

"I thought the first trial was well presented. I think the second trial was better presented because we learned from the first trial and made it simpler," Fitzgerald told reporters.

From the start, the case against Blagojevich had a heavy overlay of political intrigue, with the names of prominent national leaders drawn repeatedly into testimony and evidence. Chief among those was Obama, whose old U.S. Senate seat was the focus of the marquee charges in the case.

When Obama was elected president in November 2008, Blagojevich held the sole authority under Illinois law to name a successor and prosecutors argued that he tried to leverage that power to cash in for himself. Through intermediaries, Obama sent signals that he preferred the post go to his friend Valerie Jarrett, prompting Blagojevich to allegedly offer a swap - Jarrett to the Senate and Blagojevich to a Cabinet post or other high-level administration job.

The jury also convicted him of trying to squeeze \$25,000 in fundraising help out of Children's Memorial Hospital CEO Patrick Magoon as the price for an \$8 million hike in state reimbursement rates for pediatric specialists.

He was also found guilty of delaying approval of legislation to benefit the financially ailing horse racing industry in an attempt to

pry \$100,000 in campaign cash from Maywood Park owner John Johnston. In his testimony, Blagojevich denied shaking down Magoon or Johnston, insisting that his campaign organization's approach to the two was made because they had been donors in the past and were considered "low-hanging fruit."

Jurors were more receptive to Blagojevich's denials of involvement in two other alleged schemes.

In one, prosecutors claimed he dangled a multibillion-dollar tollway expansion as bait to try and extract \$500,000 in fundraising help from road builder Gerald Krozel. In the other, government lawyers claimed Blagojevich held up payment of a state grant to a Chicago school until Emanuel, who sought the money, pressed his Hollywood talent agent brother to throw a fundraiser for the governor.

But no amount of talk from Blagojevich on the stand could explain away all his incriminating attempts at deal-making over the Senate seat that was captured on secret government wiretaps.

On one, for example, Blagojevich boasted of "tangible support" being offered by Jackson backers as payment for the seat and declaring his top priorities for settling on a Senate pick as, "Our legal situation. Our personal situation. My political situation."

*News can be reached at 650-3527. Or [news@alestlelive.com](mailto:news@alestlelive.com)*



# Increased enrollment in SIU nursing program Correction

**Courtney Hill**  
Alestle Reporter

After completing their first year of nursing courses at SIUE, students enrolled in the SIUE Regional Nursing Program will finish their studies at SIU Carbondale.

The program, established in the fall of 2010, allows SIUC nursing students to take SIUE nursing courses on the Carbondale campus.

Twenty-three students were accepted into the nursing program last fall after completing their freshman prerequisite courses and passing the Health Education Systems Incorporated (HESI) exam, a comprehensive assessment of their knowledge of the nursing field. According to Mindy Reach, SIUE academic advisor for the program, freshmen coursework can be completed at any college or university, and students have the option of choosing SIUE or SIUC to complete their nursing studies in subsequent years.

According to Program Director Susan Winters, several considerable factors led to the merging of the nursing program between the two campuses.

"Previously there was no baccalaureate program [in Carbondale] at all," Winters said. "The reason Carbondale itself doesn't have a program is because it's a very laborious and expensive process to start up a



Graphic by Michelle Beard/Alestle

program from scratch. It's a four-year process."

Additionally, an influx of baccalaureate-prepared students wanted to pursue nursing degrees without moving from the Carbondale area, and SIUE wished to expand their nursing enrollment.

Community hospitals were also in need of assistance, making the joint venture seem necessary, according to Winters.

"The hospitals are very pleased we're here because they want very much to hire more baccalaureate-prepared nurses," Winters said. "At Edwardsville they couldn't accept more students because the clinic sites are so saturated. There was a big nursing shortage [in Carbondale]."

SIUE professors are able to teach SIUC students through video conferencing, which

allows video to be shared through a satellite feed viewable to students and professors. Reach, who is stationed at Carbondale, said lecture courses will be run differently in the second year of the program due to increased student enrollment.

"Our first class had most of their classes through teleconferencing, and our new incoming class will have a mixture of teleconferenced classes and in-person [lecture] classes with a professor here on campus," Reach said. "Students will receive their degree from SIUE, but all of their coursework will be here in Carbondale."

Lab work is not taught through teleconferencing, and SIUE-employed professors are often stationed in Carbondale for courses with physical demands.

Junior nursing major

Samantha Ingram of St. Joseph said the program is beneficial and highly convenient for students wishing to pursue nursing in the Carbondale region.

"You couldn't really get a nursing degree south of Edwardsville," Ingram said. "There were a lot of RN programs, but no [Bachelors of Science in Nursing] programs, I like it a lot, [and] I like the smaller class size."

Students unable to apply to the SIUE nursing program due to a surplus of applicants can still apply to SIUE's branch at SIUC in order to fulfill their coursework requirements. The Carbondale Regional Nursing Program accepts 40 students each year upon successful completion of their prerequisites, and from 23 students in the fall 2010 semester, the number has grown significantly, according to Winters.

"We have 37 students coming [to Carbondale] this fall," Winters said. "It's pretty competitive. I think it's a good thing."

For further information on the Carbondale Regional Nursing Program and its requirements, visit [www.siu.edu/nursing/siue-nursing-carbondale.shtml](http://www.siu.edu/nursing/siue-nursing-carbondale.shtml).

Courtney Hill can be reached at [chill@alestlelive.com](mailto:chill@alestlelive.com) or 650-3527. Follow Courtney @CHill824

In the June 22, 2011 issue of the Alestle, the article "Dining Services' hours leave some hungry" quoted a source that misidentified himself.

The source in question made comments about Dining Services' hours, including a derogatory comment about the napkin board located outside Dining Services' office.

The Alestle prides itself on accurately reporting the news to our readers.

The Alestle regrets the error and apologizes to all parties involved in the matter.



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## Illinois police offer hands free devices to law abiding drivers

The reward for not using a cell phone is, well, using a cell phone. Sounds like a great plan, right?

Last week, Motorola teamed up with the Illinois State Police to reward Illinois drivers for responsible driving. Motorola Bluetooth



**Kari Williams**  
Editor in Chief

devices were given to citizens at various checkpoints in Illinois, including Collinsville, for their law-abiding ways through their Responsibility on the Road program.

That incentive shouldn't even be offered. It's contradictory at best and deadly at worst. Just because someone doesn't have one hand on the cell phone and one hand on the wheel does not mean they aren't distracted in some way. If anything, hands-free devices could cause

drivers to get lost in the conversation and unintentionally lose their focus on the task at hand.

Accidents from regular cell phone usage played a role in more than 1,000 vehicle crashes in 2010, according to [www.handfreeinfo.com](http://www.handfreeinfo.com). The same website said it is against the law for any driver under 19 years old to use a cell phone — hands free or not.

So, hypothetically, if a driver under 19 years old would have passed through one of the checkpoints and been given the device, the state would have been contributing to the violation of its own laws.

Obviously, the risks that come with driving and cell phone use are seen everyday in the numerous car crashes resulting from texting or talking on a cell phone. I understand that using hands-free devices lowers the likelihood of an accident because both hands are on the wheel, but the possibility of an accident is always there — cell phone or not.

Even though the chances are lower, the distraction still exists. Nothing is going to change that. And if drivers are following the rules and not using cell phones, giving them a device — albeit an alternate device — with which to do so only encourages the act.

Illinois passed the law making it illegal to use cell phones in construction zones in Jan. 2010. If it is against the law to talk in construction zones, how will the regulations relate to hands free devices? Someone could be just as engrossed in a heated argument and not pay attention to workers with both hands on the wheel. And this Motorola "reward" only encourages illegal cell phone usage in construction zones.

This idea promotes irresponsibility and essentially gives law-abiding citizens a means with which to break the law.

*Kari Williams is a senior mass communications major from St. Louis. She can be reached at [kwilliams@alestlelive.com](mailto:kwilliams@alestlelive.com) or 650-3530. Follow Kari @Kari\_Williams*

## Blagojevich trial continues Illinois political corruption trend

Well Rod Blagojevich, I guess the curtain has been pulled back and the residents of Illinois can now see that you are not the wonderful Oz and we are not in the Emerald City after all.



**Jill Cook**  
Graduate Assistant

Oh sure, you talked a good show with the bright lights of media and the big show of Illinois politics to hide behind. But maybe, just maybe, Illinois residents are finally getting tired of being lulled into blind acceptance in the field of poppies you've led us to.

But then again, maybe not.

Blagojevich makes governor number four found guilty by a jury of his peers and probably spending time in prison. Four in almost 40 years. That's not a very good track record for Illinois. But that doesn't even put a small dent in the total number of Illinois politicians turned criminals.

In 2006, the Chicago Sun-Times reported that more than 79 Illinois state officials, Chicago city officials or Cook County elected officials had been found guilty of a crime at some point in their career. In 40

years.

There is plenty of research regarding corruption in Illinois politics, and one would almost expect it during the early 20th century when Al Capone ruled the streets of Chicago. But 40 years doesn't go that far back.

Granted, Illinois was not the home of the highest level of corruption in the early '70s — President Richard Nixon takes that title — but to be the home of at least 80 corrupt politicians in 40 years is over the top.

But we are the people who elected them to office; so, are we the people so unaware or just so dumb? Or is it that the people elected to office become so blinded by the power and privilege provided them in their position. Possibly, it's a little of both.

Far too many blogs and online comments reveal just how blind we the people can be. Many people listen to or read something that isn't based wholly on truth (actually it's based mostly on fabrication) and then regurgitate it as absolute fact. And these "facts" are taken to the voting booth. If someone absolutely believes Barack Obama is not a natural born citizen then that person will probably not vote for him.

But we the people aren't solely at fault.

Some politicians, like Blagojevich, knew how to take advantage of the curtain provided by the position and talk a good game. However, he ended up talking too much. And no matter how much he talked in his defense, the jury didn't buy it this time.

Maybe, the idea of having a litmus test for voters is a good idea. It would eliminate votes based on untruths. But then again a voter litmus test is just slightly unconstitutional.

We could eliminate all false information. But then again, that would also be unconstitutional.

We could hold our elected officials to a higher standard. But that's as make-believe as the whole "Wizard of Oz" story.

About all we're left with is the realization that political corruption is part of the package. Sometimes it's going to happen. We can't be too surprised when it does nor can we be insulted by the politician's abuse of trust.

That or we can simply ask our future politicians one question at political debates: "Are you willing to serve time in prison?"

*Jill Cook is a mass communications graduate student from St. Louis. She can be reached at [jcook@alestlelive.com](mailto:jcook@alestlelive.com) or 650-3527. Follow Jill @jill\_cook*



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## Summer Showbiz presents: 'Lend Me a Tenor'

**LEXI CORTES**

Alestle Reporter

Summer Showbiz 2011 was full of laughs and surprises with the performance of "Lend Me a Tenor," directed by Mark Bacus.

The performance was based on the musical comedy written by Ken Ludwig, which won three Tony Awards, four Drama Desk Awards and has been produced in more than 30 countries.

The play is set in 1934, with eight actors trying to fit into one simple set—a fancy hotel room. Most of the action takes place in the living room with characters flirting on the couch, and behind a half-wall is the bedroom of the suite where the bathroom is located, convenient when it is necessary for the characters to hide.

Saunders, played by an SIUE alum and frequent performer of Summer Showbiz productions Loren Fearr, is the general manager of the Cleveland Grand Opera Company is generally yelling at Max, played by junior theater performance major Alex Kowalchik, throughout the performance.

Max is Saunders' assistant, who is also "engaged" to Maggie, junior theater performance major Katie Wiese, Saunders' daughter. But Maggie thinks she is head over heels in love with a big Italian man named Tito Merelli.

Tito Merelli, SIUE alum Josh Douglas, is a famous opera singer, often called "the best tenor of his



Courtesy of SIUE Theater Department

**Director Mark Bacus made 'Lend Me a Tenor' come to life on the Dunham Hall Theater stage with the help of current students and alumni. The show ran from June 22-26 and was part of Summer Showbiz.**

generation."

Merelli is supposed to sing as Othello at Saunders' Opera Company, but after he receives enough doses of tranquilizers to make Max believe he is dead, Max has to pretend to be Merelli because, in this business, the show must go on.

Senior technical theater major Alyssa Miley of Mascoutah was part of the crew who helped put this performance together. She was involved in many areas, from the lights to the set to the costumes.

Miley said the bellhop was her favorite character of the

performance.

"Every time [the bellhop] walks on stage, I stop what I'm doing just to watch," Miley said. "His role is one of the ones that every single night he comes on stage, he's completely different. He does something new every time and it's great."

Miley said "Lend Me a Tenor" is the third performance she has been directly involved in since has been at SIUE and the cast and crew had been working on it since the week after school let out for summer.

Even though Miley said the

bellhop was her favorite character, she enjoyed the rest of the performances as well.

"I thought [the actors] did amazing," Miley said. "Every single one has their own specialty. All of them are so funny. It was really good watching them progress and get funnier as they went, as opposed to hearing the same jokes over and over again."

Miley's father Mike Miley came to see the performance as well and said he enjoyed himself.

"The thing they did at the very end, [when they went through] the entire play in just a

few minutes.... [There were] lots of funny parts throughout but then the reenactment at the end just set it off," Mike Miley said.

The only thing Mike Miley did not like about the performance was that the actors and actresses maintained the fourth wall and did not acknowledge the audience.

"I got the feeling that it should have been more interactive with the audience," Mike Miley said. "They should have played that up a bit more."

Hana Skoblow of Edwardsville said she heard the performance was supposed to be funny and she was not disappointed. She said the actors' comedic timing made the show seamless.

"The first act was mostly exposition, but it was still entertaining," Skoblow said. "The second act really made the show blossom, though."

Skoblow said her favorite part of the performance, like Mr. Miley, was the very end when the actors and actresses went through the entire performance at about 20 times the speed.

"[The actors] were very animated and, because the show was so physical, they knew how to use their bodies to enhance the play," Skoblow said. "I didn't see a single weak link in the cast."

*Lexi Cortes can be reached at acortes@alestlelive.com or 650-3531. Follow Lexi @lexi\_cortes.*

## Transformers in 3-D: headache in disguise

**MICHELLE BEARD**

Alestle Photo Editor

When the first Transformers movie came out, I scoffed at the blatant product placement and sex appeal. Almost exactly four years later, I scoff at the blatant product placement and sex appeal.

"Transformers: Dark of the Moon" was half an hour longer than it needed to be and had too many plot elements to follow. It took me an hour and a half to actually get into the plot, but once I caught on, there were a series of pleasant twists that almost made the movie bearable.

Throughout the movie, it bounces between heartfelt humanity and Rock 'em Sock 'em Robots. The bit parts and cameos were far more enjoyable than the movie itself. Notable appearances include Alan Tudyk ("Serenity"), Buzz Aldrin, Ken Jeong ("The Hangover") and John Malkovich. Due to the nature of the plot, there is honestly no point in even trying to describe what their roles are.

During the war between the Autobots and Decepticons, an Autobot ship, containing "the last

hope" of the Autobots, is shot down and crashes on the Moon.

On Earth, 1961, scientists in New Mexico detect this lunar impact and alert NASA, who in turn reports to the Pentagon, who consults President Kennedy. Now we all know the REAL reason JFK was so eager to get a man on the Moon.

It takes eight years, but nevertheless, Apollo 11 is sent to investigate the crash site. Our good friends Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin wander into the wreckage and discover the large metal face of the once leader of the Autobots, Sentinel Prime (voiced by Leonard Nimoy), whose mechanical eye flickers before the camera dives into the title card. DUN DUN DUN!

Cut to the perky posterior of Sam Witwicky's (Shia LeBeouf) new ladyfriend, Carly (English model Rosie Huntington-Whitely-a.k.a. Megan Fox's replacement). Since there's no good way to incorporate, "Fox isn't in this movie because she likened Bay to Hitler," there's a quick flashback to Sam receiving a medal from President Obama

and meeting Carly, who was working in the White House.

I'll give props to director Michael Bay for using actual JFK footage, but when it was spliced with footage that was processed to look 40 years old, I had to take off my glasses for a while to relieve my eyes.

The cross-century footage wasn't the only thing that made me want to chuck my 3-D glasses across the theater. There were a lot of angled shots that would look stupid in 2-D, but kind of work in 3-D. Because it was shot in the 3-D and Bay is really pushing theaters to use brighter bulbs so viewers can get the most out of their experience, "watch it in 3-D" is my unofficial recommendation.

However, my slightly more official recommendation is save your money.

One star for Alan Tudyk and another for making Leonard Nimoy say, "The needs of the many outweigh the needs of the few."

★★★★☆

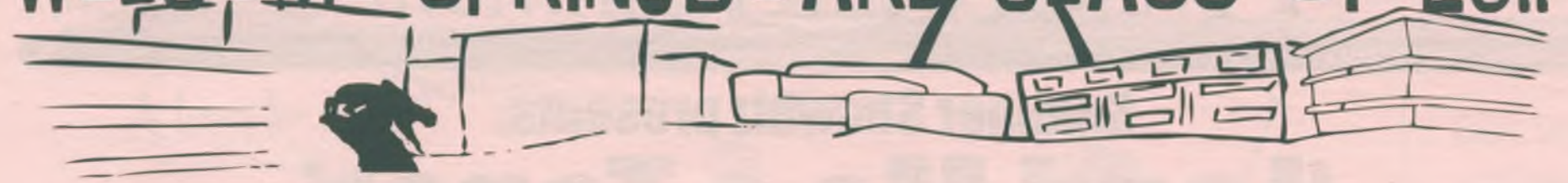
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Graphic courtesy of Paramount Pictures



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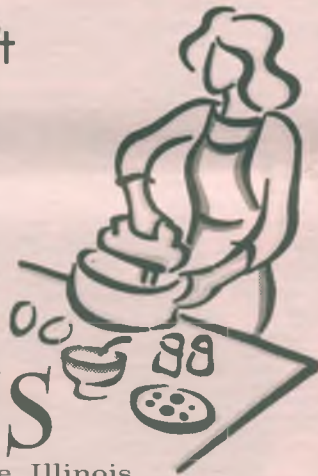
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# Cougars look to boost RPI, earn respect

## Tulsa, Green Bay and power conference teams add to already tough MVC slate

**ALLAN LEWIS**  
Alestle Sports Editor

The SIUE men's soccer team has beefed up its strength of schedule hoping to prove more after last season's disappointing finish.

### Men's soccer

SIUE released its 2011 schedule last week as the team prepares for its second run through the Missouri Valley Conference. The Cougars have nine games scheduled at Korte Stadium, including three conference matches.

Head Coach Kevin Kalish said the Cougars are up against a tougher slate as they work to improve upon last year's 10-win season, which left them just short of making the NCAA tournament.

"There is a good balance between home and away matches," Kalish said. "We want to challenge ourselves and put us in a position to see where we stack up against some of the best teams in the nation."

The Cougars will have more than enough opportunities to prove themselves, beginning with their regular season opener Aug. 27 at Tulsa. The Golden Hurricanes

made the second round of the NCAA tournament last season with a 12-7-2 record, and were ranked 21st in the final RPI rankings. Last season, Tulsa held the No. 2 ranking in the country when they beat SIUE 1-0.

"The more games you can get against quality opponents like Tulsa the better," Kalish said. "From a preparation standpoint, it is a great test for us to start the season. They are well-coached and we are looking forward to the challenge."

Before beginning the regular season at Tulsa, the Cougars have two exhibition games, beginning with an Aug. 14 battle against Northwestern at Korte Stadium and a match across the river at Saint Louis Aug. 19.

Northwestern from the Big Ten was 8-8-2 last season, but made the NCAA tournament the prior three years.

"They have a track record of success, and it is a great preseason game for us and our fans," Kalish said.

The game against SLU is the fourth revival of the Bronze Boot rivalry, which was big in the St. Louis soccer community throughout the '70s and '80s. Since 2009,



Alestle Photo Archives

**SIUE will play Saint Louis University in another exhibition game this season on Aug. 19.**

the Cougars and Billikens have played to a 1-1-1 record all in exhibition play. SIUE won a spring game against SLU in April on penalty kicks.

For now, the rivalry remains off the regular season schedule.

"It will have the feel of the regular season game," Kalish said. "It's played like a regular season game in terms of intensity."

SIUE opens the home season Sept. 1 against Green Bay from the Horizon

**SOCCER SCHEDULE/pg. 8**

### Coming to "The Ralph"



Aug. 14



Sept. 1



Sept. 22



Sept. 24



Oct. 8



Oct. 12



Oct. 22



Oct. 25

# SIUE's first year coach releases team's first ever OVC schedule

**ALLAN LEWIS**  
Alestle Sports Editor

The SIUE volleyball program has a new coach, new conference and new goals.

### Volleyball

SIUE Head Coach Leah Johnson announced the team's 2011 schedule last week, the first season the Cougars compete against a full double-round-robin Ohio Valley Conference schedule.

"We have a great competitive schedule moving into the Ohio Valley Conference," Johnson said. "I think it will be a good year for the Cougars."

The Cougars will play all 10 teams in the OVC both at home and on the road next season, as well as three non-conference tournaments to prepare for the OVC schedule ahead.

SIUE opens at home, hosting the SIUE Invitational Aug. 26 and 27 against Arkansas Pine-Bluff, Wofford, Kent State and Western Illinois.

Johnson said it is important for the Cougars to get acclimated to one another on their home floor.

"It's a good advantage for the athletes to get to spend that first week attending all their classes so they are not missing anything right off the bat, which keeps them ahead of the game," Johnson said of the opening weekend. "We also get that extra

day of practice that a lot of teams are traveling on for the first weekend."

Last season under Todd Gober, the Cougars were 14-15 with an RPI ranking of 248. The teams the Cougars welcome to the Vadalabene Center present a winnable challenge to open the campaign.

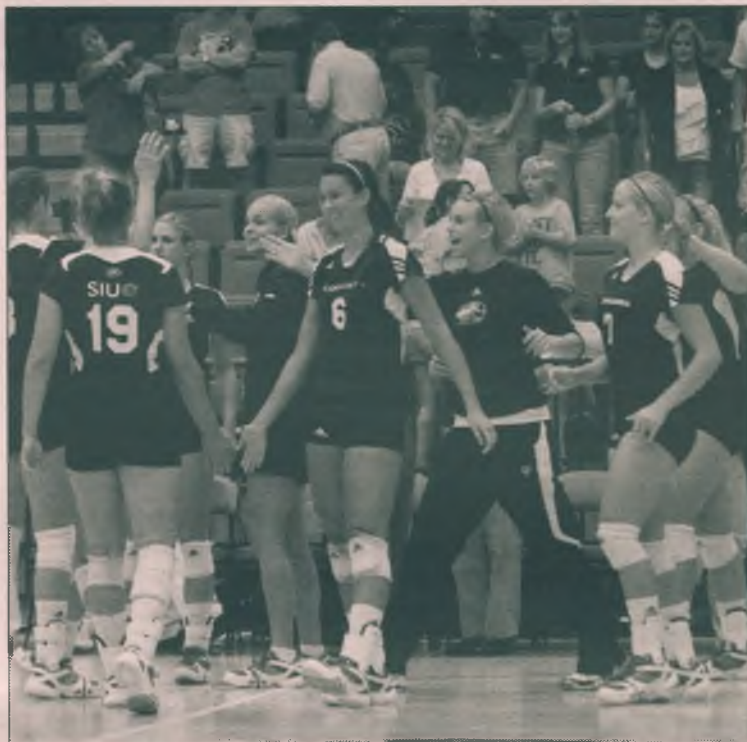
The highest ranked team according to last year's final RPI in the tournament is Kent State, whom the Cougars open against. The Golden Flashes were 13-19 last year, with an RPI of 189. Wofford went 13-21, Western Illinois was 8-22 and Arkansas Pine Bluff was 7-24 last season.

After the opening tournament, SIUE travels up I-55 to play at Illinois State Aug. 30, before hopping onto I-70 to head to Terra Haute, Ind., and the Indiana State Invitational Sept. 3-4. There, the Cougars will play Western Illinois again, and battle Savannah State and Indiana State.

The Cougars round out tournament play Sept. 9-10 at Bowling Green's Best Western Invitational, alongside Canisius, Bowling Green and Michigan State.

Johnson views all three tournaments as challenges to her team.

"It's good to have three opening weekends which will challenge us and continue to challenge us going into the OVC," Johnson said. "The



Alestle Photo Archives

**The SIUE volleyball team will open the season Aug. 26 against Kent State at the Vadalabene Center during the 2nd annual Cougar Clasic.**

athletes are new to me and I am new to them, so the first few weekends are very important so we all become comfortable with each other as we continue to evolve, grow and improve."

The Cougars begin OVC play Sept. 16 against Murray State at the Vadalabene Center and entertain Southeast Missouri the next night. SIUE then travels to Eastern Illinois (Sept. 20), Tennessee State (Sept. 23) and Austin Peay (Sept. 24) before heading back north.

On the way home from

Tennessee, the Cougars will stop in Carbondale Sept. 27 to take on SIU Carbondale for the first time in school history.

"I think it is exciting to compete against one another. We are sister schools and I have a lot of respect for their program," Johnson said. "I think it will be competitive and a natural rivalry I think both sides will be eager to play in."

The Cougars host Morehead State Sept. 30 and Eastern Kentucky Oct. 1 before a four game conference road swing

against Murray State, UT Martin, Tennessee Tech and Jacksonville State. The Cougars are back home for Austin Peay Oct. 21, Tennessee State Oct. 22 and Eastern Illinois Oct. 25.

For Johnson, the second run through the conference will prove to be the toughest.

"When you play each other twice, the second time is always more difficult because you know each other more and you have to prepare even more," Johnson said.

The Cougars travel to Eastern Kentucky and Morehead State Oct. 28-29 and are home for Jacksonville State Nov. 4 and Tennessee Tech Nov. 5.

SIUE's final road game is Nov. 8 at Southeast Missouri before closing out the season at the Vadalabene Center against UT Martin Nov. 11.

Johnson said the Cougars are going to have to endure a tough road next season.

"I think the balance for us is going to be staying healthy and always preparing to make sure our athletes are ready to compete," Johnson said.

Although the Cougars are playing a full schedule of OVC opponents, the team is ineligible for postseason play while in its final year of Division I certification with the NCAA.

Allan Lewis can be reached at  
alewis@alestlelive.com or 650-3527.  
Follow Allan @AllanJLewis



# Former Cougar earns bronze at USATF Championships

## ALESTLE SPORTS REPORT

SIUE Track and Field alumna Alicia DeShasier finished third in the women's javelin throw at the United States Track and Field Championships last weekend in Eugene, Ore.

DeShasier, who is now a volunteer assistant coach for the

University of Wisconsin women's track and field team under former SIUE Head Coach David Astrauskas, recorded a throw of 177 feet, 2 inches to win her second bronze medal at the championships. She also won third in 2010.

DeShasier is currently attempting to qualify for the 2012

Olympic Games in London.

"It's great to finish with the bronze at such a great event," DeShasier said. "I had a lot of fun. I really like throwing here. I felt good about my throws and I am very pleased with my performance."

Ben Bishop represented SIUE at last year's

championships.

Kara Patterson, a 2008 Olympian, won the event with a toss of 194 feet, four inches. The top two placers from the event advance to an international competition in South Korea.

DeShasier holds the SIUE record in the javelin throw with a

toss of 164 feet, 9 inches, and was a 2006 first-team All-American and Great Lakes Valley Conference Player of the Year in softball for the Cougars.

*Alestle Sports can be reached at sports@alestlelive.com or 650-3527. Follow Alestle Sports @TheAlestleSport*

## Teamwork...



Rebekka Blake/Alestle  
**Andrenos Powell from Gateway Tech High School in St. Louis drives to the hole during Saturday's men's basketball team camp at the Vadalabene Center.**

## SOCCKER SCHEDULE

from pg. 7

League. The Phoenix went 13-4-2 last season, but like SIUE, missed out on an at-large bid to the NCAA tournament.

"It will be a great home opening test of us," Kalish said. "They are a great team in the Horizon and have a new coach. I am sure they will be ready."

The Cougars do not stay at home for long, before heading to Chicago for a match against DePaul Sept. 4. SIUE heads to Evansville, Ind. to play Eastern Illinois and Marist Sept. 9 and 11 and then back to Chicago for a tournament at UIC with games against UIC and Wisconsin Sept. 16 and 18.

Eastern Illinois, a member of the OVC in most sports with the exception of men's soccer, competed in the MVC with the Cougars last season. The Panthers made the move to the Summit League for 2011.

"It will feel like another conference game," Kalish said. "Eastern is a very difficult team to play in terms of their style of play."

The Cougars then return home for two games against schools from Nashville, taking on Belmont Sept. 22 and Lipscomb Sept. 24. The Cougars defeated Belmont 2-1 last season, while the game against Lipscomb marks the first ever meeting between the two programs.

The final tune-up for MVC play comes in Ohio, with the Cougars playing at Dayton Oct. 1 and Cincinnati Oct. 4.

Homecoming for the Cougars is also their Missouri Valley

Conference opener against Evansville Oct. 8.

Last year's homecoming game against Bradley attracted nearly 4,000 fans, and Kalish said he hopes by this point in the season the Cougars have fans excited to come to Korte Stadium for more than just homecoming.

"We will generate a pretty good crowd and hopefully we can get some wins early in the season and get on a run so more of the fans will follow and see what a great time SIUE soccer is," Kalish said.

The Cougars host Central Arkansas Oct. 12 and travel to Bradley Oct. 15 for a rematch of last season's MVC championship game.

Bradley is quickly becoming a top rival for the Cougars. During last year's homecoming, SIUE defeated Bradley in overtime at Korte Stadium. The Braves got the last laugh, however, in an MVC final filled with fireworks. Bradley's Bryan Gaul received a red card for cleating SIUE goalkeeper Nick Collico in the face, forcing the Braves to play with 10 men for the end of the second half and overtime. But Bradley held on, and defeated the Cougars in penalty kicks.

"It seems like we have a bit of a rivalry with them, especially with them being so close in Peoria," Kalish said. "What happened last year for us was last year. We came up a bit short and next year is a new year."

The Cougars finish out the two-match MVC road trip at Drake Oct. 19 before returning to Korte Stadium to face Creighton Oct. 22 and Nebraska-Omaha Oct.

24.

Creighton, whom the Cougars tied 2-2 in Omaha last season, was ranked in the top 10 much of the year and made the NCAA tournament as an at-large team while Nebraska-Omaha enters its first season as a Division I school.

Kalish said Creighton will present a big challenge.

"Creighton has to be the favorite coming in," Kalish said. "They are very talented with award candidates at almost every position, but they have a new coach coming in from North Carolina so it will be interesting to see how they change if they change at all."

Nebraska-Omaha offers a different challenge.

"We were in their position too, so I know how hard it is to get games when you are just starting out," Kalish said. "I am good friends with their coach and played college ball with him. Any Division I game is going to be difficult to win."

The Cougars close the regular season on the road with their MVC finale against Missouri State Oct. 30 and a match against UMKC, coached by former SIUE soccer player Rick Benben Nov. 4.

"UMKC is a great program and with Rick being an alum we are glad to get them on the schedule," Kalish said.

The 2011 State Farm Missouri Valley Conference tournament is scheduled for Nov. 9-13 in Omaha, Neb.

*Allan Lewis can be reached at alewis@alestlelive.com or 650-3527. Follow Allan @AllanLewis*

## Patton wins Gold Glove Award

### ALESTLE SPORTS REPORT

Out of more than 1,000 NCAA Division I pitchers, only one is chosen by the American Baseball Coaches Association to receive a Rawlings Gold Glove.

This year, the honor went to former Cougar pitcher Spencer Patton.

The Award goes to one player at each position in each Division of NCAA baseball for their outstanding work defensively. While Patton shined on the mound for the Cougars, going 9-3 with a 2.55 ERA and 109 strikeouts, he maintained a perfect fielding percentage and did not commit an error during the season.

Patton was selected by the Kansas City Royals in the 24th round of this year's Major League Baseball First-Year Player Draft. After signing, Patton was assigned to the Royals' Rookie-League Affiliate Idaho Falls Chukars.

So far, Patton has made two appearances for Idaho Falls, including his first professional start June 25.

In four and two-thirds innings pitched, Patton has struck out nine batters and allowed no walks with a 3.86 ERA. Opponents are hitting .263 against Patton.

*Alestle Sports can be reached at sports@alestlelive.com or 650-3527. Follow Alestle Sports @TheAlestleSport*

## Wrestlers honored for academics

### ALESTLE SPORTS REPORT

Three SIUE wrestlers were recently among the first time academic honorees by the National Collegiate Wrestling Association.

Eric Biehl, Michael Dace and Derrick Pousson were selected to the NWCA All-Academic team for the 2010-2011 season.

Dace was one of two individual national champions to receive the honor.

The NCWA provided certificates to 126 honorees throughout the country for their academic achievements.

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